

THE WAR FOR THE UNION.

Prohibition of Certain Correspondence.

THE PROPOSED BANKRUPT LAW.

Solicitor of Customs for New-York.

THE CANADIAN RECIPROCITY TREATY.

THE EXPULSION OF SENATOR BRIGHT.

Important Request of the New-York Legislature.

SERIOUS CHARGES AGAINST GENERAL LOCKWOOD.

PROHIBITION OF CERTAIN CORRESPONDENCE.

By direction of the Secretary of War, an order has been issued prohibiting letters from being sent or received through our lines except by prisoners on either side. The practice has been heretofore to allow all letters to pass or be received through the lines. It has been discovered that this privilege has been much abused.

THE BANKRUPT LAW.

Mr. Conkling, on the Committee on the Bankrupt Law, will report a bill to the House in the course of two or three days. The measure is of great importance, and will be carefully considered before any final action will be had.

NEW-YORK SOLICITOR OF CUSTOMS.

The Committee on Commerce of the House have authorized the Chairman to report the bill for the appointment of a Solicitor of Customs for New-York in accordance with the recommendations of the Secretary of the Treasury. The opposition to this measure from New-York has been strong. Several parties have been heard before the Committee. Among them the United States District-Attorney of New-York, whose office will be injuriously affected by its adoption. But the objections raised are not deemed of sufficient importance by the Committee. To change their views in regard to the bill, the Secretary of the Treasury, as well as the Collector of New-York, think the measure an important one, and that it should become a law as speedily as possible.

THE CANADIAN RECIPROCITY TREATY.

The House Committee on Commerce have authorized General Ward to make his report upon the Canadian Reciprocity Treaty, which he will do to-morrow or at an early day. The report is very elaborate, and will embrace the following important points:

The extent, population, position and resources of the British North American provinces and possessions; the present treaty; its operation and effect upon the commerce of the United States; the existing condition of our commercial and financial relations with Canada; the line of policy most conducive to the interest and welfare of both countries; the necessity of modern invention and civilization on the intercourse of nations, including the leading principles of the German Commercial Union or Zollverein, and their applicability to the United States and the colonies; the mutual relations of Canada and Great Britain and the colonies, so far as they affect the United States; and a method of negotiation for the removal of existing difficulties.

The report, strange to say, is against an abrogation of the treaty, favors negotiation for removal of restriction upon the trade of the United States, and suggests a more close commercial union upon the plan of our States, or upon a basis like the German Commercial Union. The reciprocity swindle was fastened upon us by the slave-driving Democrats of the South. It is to be hoped that a new arrangement will not give the British the gratuitous use of our markets, or the New-York canals, and of a railroad route through Maine, New-Hampshire, and Vermont.

THE EXPULSION OF SENATOR BRIGHT.

A telegram, signed by Representatives McKean, Fenton, Wheeler, Clark, Spaulding, Frank, Van Valkenburgh, Pomeroy, and Baker of New-York, was sent to Albany to-day, urging the Legislature to pass resolutions instructing Senators Harris and King to vote for the expulsion of "the traitor Bright." More of the New-York delegation would have signed the paper had they been in season.

THE CONDUCT OF THE WAR.

Gen. Banks, and Col. Devens of the 15th Massachusetts, were to-day examined touching the affair at Ball's Bluff, by the Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War. The Committee also entered upon an inquiry into the campaign of Gen. Lockwood in Accomac and Northampton Counties, Virginia, concerning which Col. Paine, 4th Wisconsin, Major Bacon, 6th Michigan, and Col. Warner, 5th New-York, testified. It is understood that the Committee are determined to get at the true history of that campaign, which is yet to be written.

SERIOUS CHARGES HAVE BEEN MADE AGAINST GEN. LOCKWOOD, such as that he was guilty of severe and even barbarous treatment of fugitive slaves, and of acts of unrepentant clemency toward their rebel masters, who had been in arms against the Government—such as surrendering to them cavalry horses, and other property, which had been used for insurrectionary purposes.

GEN. RIPLEY NOT SUPERSEDED.

The announcement in some New-York journals that Gen. Ripley, the experienced Chief of the Ordnance Bureau of the War Department has been superseded by Major Dyer is incorrect. We have the highest authority for saying that the Secretary of War has not even thought of making this change. It is not, however, improbable that in this and other bureau radical reforms will be instituted to the success of which the displacement of high officials, assistants to chiefs, may be requisite.

STANTON IN HIS OFFICE.

There is melodrama in the new administration of the War Department. A man with a patent armor, patriotically anxious the Government shall buy, enters.

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Patriot—"No."

Secretary—"Then I will propose a test myself. Put it on, and I will have you shot at."

Patriot—"Some part not protected might be hit."

Secretary—"No danger of that, Sir; get Col. Berdan to shoot you; Colonel never misses, Sir."

Patriot—nonplussed—"I do not consider that a fair test."

Secretary—"I do; and I don't think much of a man who declines a test that he is willing to subject my soldiers to. No, Sir, you can't sell patent safety contrivances to this Department; but, if you will bring an invention here which will push our armies on to the rebel forces, I will buy it. Good morning, Sir."

Other patriot, after a clerkship:

Secretary—"I have none to give you, Sir."

Patriot—"There are certain considerations connected with the cheese rations which I would like to present to you."

Secretary—"I know nothing about cheese."

Patriot urges cheese.

Secretary—"Have you talked with the Commissary-General?"

Patriot—"Yes; but he wouldn't listen to me."

Secretary—"That is an excellent reason why I should adjourn the cheese question till after the fight question is disposed of."

Yet another patriot after a Second Lieutenant.

Secretary—"Seen service?"

Patriot—"Yes, Sir."

Secretary—"Been in a battle?"

Patriot—"No, Sir."

Secretary—"Then you can't be appointed; I have but few places, and I am going to keep them for men who have smell gunpowder."

Similar application—had fought at Ball Run—screamed out of him, not without blunders, that he had fought bravely.

Secretary—"Ah! you have smell gunpowder; you have shown fight publicly. I think I will appoint you—when a vacancy occurs."

To the Associated Press.

WASHINGTON, Tuesday, Jan. 28, 1862.

MR. ELY IN HIS SUE.

Representative Ely took his seat to-day, the first time since his release from Richmond.

THE RELIEF OF UNION PRISONERS.

Bishop Ames and Hamilton Fish have signed their acceptance of their appointments by the Secretary of War as Commissioners to visit and relieve the prisoners of the United States in the hands of the rebels.

THE PASS SYSTEM.

An order has been issued from the office of the Provost-Marshal here, requiring that hereafter all persons passing by stage or private conveyance over the roads between the District and Port Tobacco, or Leonardtown, Md., and the vicinity of those villages, procure passes either from the office of the Provost-Marshal here if going either, or from the headquarters of Gen. Hooker's division if coming this way, the said roads being now in military possession.

PERSONAL.

Among other visitors to Washington is Major Gen. Banks. Major Gen. Butler is still here.

NEW STEAM-GRIND.

A large steam-grind arrived here to-day, for which the inventor claims great execution in repelling attacks upon fortifications.

RELEASE OF UNION PRISONERS.

Lieut. Booth, of the 2d Wisconsin Regiment, made prisoner at Bull Run, and Lieut. Hooper, of the 1st California Regiment, captured at Ball's Bluff, arrived here to-day from Richmond.

SOLDIERS KEPT IN CAMP.

Fewer soldiers are now seen in Washington than at any previous time since the commencement of the rebellion, owing to the execution of a recently promulgated military order.

THE DUTY ON TEAS.

Important letter from Secretary Chase.

WASHINGTON, Tuesday, Jan. 28, 1862.

The following is a copy of the letter from Secretary Chase to Collector Barney. It has been procured on application at the Department, in order to correct an erroneous statement recently published:

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, Jan. 17, 1862.

SIR: I have under consideration an appeal from your alleged decision that certain teas imported from Canton, per bark Penguin, by Messrs. A. A. Low & Brothers, are dutiable under the act of December 24, 1861, the appellants claiming that said teas are entitled to entry free of duty, under the provision of the sixth section of the act of August 5, 1861. The twenty-third section of the act of March 2, 1861, exempts from duty, tea, when imported direct from the country of production, in American vessels, or in foreign vessels entitled to the same privileges as American vessels.

The 5th section of the act of Aug. 5, 1861, provides that all goods, wares and merchandise actually on shipboard, and bound to the United States at the date of the passage of this act, shall be subject to pay such duties as are provided by law, and at the time of the passage of this act.

Thus tea on shipboard, and bound to the United States on the 5th of August last, was entitled to entry on importation free of duty under the act of Aug. 5, 1861. The act of Dec. 24, 1861, provided that from and after the passage of this act, in lieu of the duties heretofore imposed by law on articles hereinafter mentioned, there shall be collected and paid the following duties and rates of duty, that is to say: First, on all teas, 20 cents per pound, and the question is now presented whether tea on shipboard on the 5th of August last, and bound to the United States from the country of production, in a vessel of the United States, is entitled to the privilege accorded by the 5th section of the act of Aug. 5, 1861, and entitled to entry free of duty.

If the terms "in lieu of the duties heretofore imposed" had been omitted from the act of December 24, 1861, all teas imported without exception would have been liable to the duties imposed by it. The insertion of those terms seems to indicate the intention on the part of Congress to leave free the tea and coffee made free by the 5th section of the act of August 5, 1861, and thus avoid a discrimination between shipboard teas already received and admitted from near, and shipments from remote localities also on shipboard on the 5th of August last, but not yet arrived. I am of the opinion, therefore, the merchandise in question will be entitled to free entry, if it shall be shown to your satisfaction that the teas in this case were actually on shipboard and bound to the United States from the country of growth or production on or before the passage of the act of August 5, 1861.

I am, very respectfully, S. P. CHASE, Secretary of the Treasury.

BENJ. BARNEY, esq., Collector, N. Y.

THE REVENUE CUTTER AGASSIZ.

SAC HANNOH, I. J., Tuesday, Jan. 28, 1862.

The United States revenue cutter Agassiz, Capt. Freeman, arrived here to-day, from New-York, eight hours from Sandy Point. The Agassiz will be attached to the revenue district.

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GREAT EXCITEMENT AT NEWBORN.

Preparations for an Expected Attack.

The Richmond Dispatch of yesterday has the following:

Newborn, N. C., is in a ferment of excitement to expectation of an attack in that quarter. The town is under martial law, and every preparation is being made for early intelligence of the enemy's movements and for his repulse when he does come.

AFFAIRS IN MISSOURI.

St. Louis, Tuesday, Jan. 28, 1862.

The Military Commission assembled at Palmyra for the trial of the bridge burners, has found seven persons guilty and sentenced them to be shot. The sentence has been approved by Major Gen. Halleck, and they will be executed at a time and place hereafter to be designated.

A gentleman who reached this city yesterday from Palmyra, reports Long Bridge, on the Hannibal and St. Joseph Railroad, burned by the rebels on Saturday night. The bridge had just been completed.

FROM CHICAGO—JEFF. THOMPSON.

Chicago, Tuesday, Jan. 28, 1862.

A special dispatch to The Tribune of this city dated Oct. 28th, says that rumors are rife that the expedition which left Bird's Point on Saturday had a fight with Jeff. Thompson, and that the guerrilla chief is now a prisoner. It is also reported that three Tennessee regiments have been intercepted on their march to Sykeston.

REPULSE OF A REBEL RECONNOISSANCE.

Sandy Hook, Md., Tuesday, Jan. 28, 1862.

This forenoon, a squad of Ashby's rebel cavalry made their appearance at Bolivar, accompanied by a section of artillery, which opened fire on Company H, of Col. Geary's regiment, stationed a mile and a half above Sandy Hook. Our Parrot gun and Enfield guns silenced their battery, and drove the rebels back behind the hill. At the latest advice no rebels were in sight, except a mounted picket, stationed in a small wood near Bolivar.

Jackson's main body is concentrating at Charlottesville. Informants state that great concentration of force among the rebels, in consequence of the circulation of reports among them that our whole division is about to cross over, and that Jackson has posted to Charlottesville to resist our progress. It is thought here that Jackson will move down nearer to Harper's Ferry to-night.

THE DEATH OF COL. ALLEN AND OTHERS.

TRENTON, Tuesday, Jan. 28, 1862.

The news of the loss of Col. Allen and other officers and men of the New-Jersey 9th Regiment, created a profound sensation in the Legislature. The melancholy event was announced in both Houses, and out of respect to the memory of the dead, both Houses adjourned.

FROM SANTA FE.

SANTA FE, Tuesday, Jan. 28, 1862.

The Santa Fe mail, with date to the 15th, is received.

Nothing of interest is stirring in the military department of New-Mexico.

Col. Canby has advanced up the river from Fort Craig, and at the last accounts was at Benol with 30 companies of troops. He still fears an attack upon some other point than Fort Craig.

He thinks the enemy reported at Ansonia were there to divert the attention of the Unionists. There were fifteen companies of Unionists at Fort Craig, fifteen at Albuquerque, six at Santa Fe, and 600 men at Fort Union.

There is considerable complaint made owing to the failure of the Washington mails to reach Santa Fe.

The Territory is flooded with small drafts, which occasion a scarcity of specie.

GEN. BANKS'S COMMAND.

THE FRESHET ON THE POTOMAC—DAMAGE TO THE CANAL—GEN. KELLY.

HARROCK, Jan. 26, 1862.

The existing freshet in the Potomac has produced disastrous results to the canal. At Cambridge, above Dam No. 6, another between Little Orleans, above Dam No. 6, another between Dam No. 6 and Harrocks, and two between Harrocks and the four locks. At Dam No. 5 the crib on the Virginia side, which was undermined and weakened by the Confederates some weeks ago, has yielded to the pressure of the high water, and although the crib is now full of the falling water, it will drain the Williamsport level.

Above and near Dam No. 4, the guard lock has been carried away, and at the Dam the stop-lock and a portion of the heavy masonry has broken and fallen in. Thus for the present the canal has been rendered useless, both to the Government and to the public. The estimated time for repairs is about 30 days, and the cost \$12,000 to \$15,000. As the canal is a strong work for offensive or defensive operations, it seems eminently proper that the Government should lend it aid to the Company to restore it to a state of usefulness.

Gen. Kelly left Cumberland last Thursday for Wheeling. The state of his wound still precludes the hope of recovery. On the right side, where he is laid, the wound is suppurating, and the ribs are visible. On his back, where the incisions were made to extract the ball, are large suppurating sores, surrounded with inflamed pustules. It is supposed this state of his wound arises from an unhealthy state of his blood, or some latent poison in his system.

Our troops at Cumberland are under the immediate command of Major Swanger, who is also Provost-Marshal. Col. Hooker is in command of the North-Western, and from London in person in Patterson's Creek, on the Virginia side, but has been furnished with ample means for crossing the Potomac by the management of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company should be assisted by a superior force.

The sick of Gen. Lander's command are all at Cumberland, suffering from typhoid fever.

A considerable and increasing sickness in Gen. Williams's Brigade here, arising, it is believed, from the manner in which the men are crowded into the houses. The 2nd Connecticut and 10th New-York have left the houses and pitched their tents outside the town. The other regiments will follow their example as soon as tents can be procured.

Jackson, with his full force, is reported to be at Unger's, 12 miles north of Martinsburg.

FREDERICK, Jan. 27, 1862.

A report has reached here from Dam No. 5 that a portion of Jackson's force demonstrated against the dam yesterday, but the report is unconfirmed.

FIVE MINUTES WITH THE NEW SECRETARY OF WAR.